

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 201770
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SAA-01 AID-05 ACDA-12 HA-05 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
COME-00 EB-08 /096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PAW
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DRAPER
P - JOHN FORBES
PM/SAS:CCECIL

-----022277 100815Z /15

R 092221Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MO, SS

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH GENERAL
ROBERT LAVELLE, AUGUST 7

REF: STATE 177997

1. GENERAL LAVELLE CALLED ON NEWSOM AUGUST 7 TO GIVE FIRST-
HAND REPORT OF HIS EARLY JULY MEETING WITH KING HASSAN AND
IMPRESSIONS OF THREE DAY VISIT TO WESTERN SAHARA, AND TO
OUTLINE PAGE ELECTRONICS/PAGE ENGINEERING PLANS FOR
FURTHER DEALINGS WITH MOROCCANS. LAVELLE WAS ACCOMPANIED
BY ANTHONY PIGNONI, PAGE VICE PRESIDENT.

2. LAVELLE REVIEWED POINTS KING HAD MADE RE NEED FOR U.S.
SUPPORT TO MODERATE FRIENDS (SEE COMPANY'S MEMCON, WHICH
WAS POUCHED RABAT IN MID-JULY). HE AND HIS PAGE COLLEAGUES
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PAGE 02 STATE 201770

HAD BEEN "CHARMED" BY KING, WHO HAD IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD
LIKE LAVELLE TO CARRY HIS MESSAGE TO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS.
EVEN IF RECEPTION HAD NOT BEEN SO CORDIAL, LAVELLE SAID
HE COULD NOT HELP BUT AGREE WITH KING'S POINT OF VIEW.
AS A FORMER WORKING COLLEAGUE (LAVALLE HAD COMMANDED
WHEELUS WHEN NEWSOM WAS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA), HE REQUESTED
NEWSOM'S ADVICE ON A REPLY.

3. NEWSOM SAID KING HASSAN MADE A VERY CONVINCING CASE, BUT HE EXPLAINED BACKGROUND OF OUR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. KING HASSAN HAD AGREED TO WITHDRAW F-5'S FROM THE WESTERN SAHARA, AND WE WERE ANTICIPATING THIS WITHDRAWAL. DEPLOYMENTS IN MAURITANIA WOULD DEPEND ON A REQUEST FROM THE MAURITANIAN AS WELL AS MOROCCAN GOVERNMENTS, AND WE WERE NOT CERTAIN WHEN AND IF THIS REQUEST WOULD BE SUBMITTED.

4. LAVELLE OBSERVED THAT F-5'S MADE NO SENSE IN THE SAHARA CONFLICT AND SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FOR MILITARY REASONS, QUITE APART FROM POLITICAL OR LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS. HE PROPOSED TO COUNSEL KING HASSAN STRONGLY TO HAVE THEM REMOVED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE HIS RELATIONS WITH U.S. NEWSOM SAID HE COULD SEE NO REASON WHY LAVELLE SHOULD NOT REPORT BACK TO HASSAN ALONG THESE GENERAL LINES.

5. IN REPLY TO LAVELLE'S QUESTION NEWSOM TOLD HIM THAT THE MOROCCANS STILL SEEMED TO BE DEBATING WHETHER THEY WANT OV-10'S OR COBRA/TOW'S AS A FIRST PRIORITY FROM US. LAVELLE SAID HIS IMPRESSION FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FORCE COMMANDER WAS THAT THE REAL MOROCCAN REQUIREMENT IS FOR GUNSHIPS, A ROLE FOR WHICH NEITHER COBRAS NOR OV-10'S WERE PARTICULARLY WELL-SUITED. WE POINTED OUT TO LAVELLE THAT ANY U.S SALE OF ARMS SPECIFICALLY FOR USE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 201770

IN THE SAHARA WOULD RUN INTO SAME OBSTACLE AS CURRENT F-5 DEPLOYMENTS.

6. LAVELLE TOOK THIS POINT, AND STRESSED THAT PAGE INTEREST WAS NOT RELATED TO AIRCRAFT, THAT ANY POTENTIAL PAGE SALES WOULD CONSIST OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SENSORS WHICH ARE NO LONGER ON MUNITIONS CONTROL LISTS. HE ASKED NEWSOM IF SUCH SALES WOULD CAUSE ANY DIFFICULTIES IF THE EQUIPMENT WERE USED BY MOROCCANS IN THE WESTERN SAHARA. NEWSOM SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO, BUT WOULD HESITATE TO GIVE DEFINITIVE ANSWER BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITIES OF CURRENT LAW AND REGULATIONS. PAGE REPS PROMISED TO SUBMIT COMPLETE "GENERIC" LIST OF EQUIPMENT THEY WOULD PROPOSE TO DISCUSS WITH MOROCCANS TO AFN FOR STATE DEPARTMENT REVIEW. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 201770
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:NEA/AFN:DHESTER

APPROVED BY:NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON

-----069634 122321Z /73

R 120420Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201770

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 201770 ACTION RABAT AUG 9.

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UNQUOTE
CHRISTOPHER

NOTE: ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION: NEA/POLI,SAA,AID,ACDA,HA,MCE,OMB,TRSE, COME,EB.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MILITARY PERSONNEL, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Number: 1978STATE201770
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Drafter: TSWILKINSON:PAW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780327-0385
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780881/aaaacpob.tel
Line Count: 223
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 177997
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1787856
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH GENERAL ROBERT LAVELLE, AUGUST 7
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, MO, SS, US, (LAVELLE, ROBERT)
To: RABAT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ad4ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
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